



## IMPACTING REAL PEOPLE

*The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council's (MODDC) mission is to assist individuals, families, and the community to include all people with developmental disabilities (DD) in every aspect of life.*

- Non-partisan organization guided by the lived experiences of Missouri families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- MODDC is unique in that we are led by and for people with disabilities. The work of the Council is guided by the experiences of individuals and families navigating Missouri systems.
- The Council has worked for systems change in some of the biggest issues and concerns facing Missourians with I/DD and their families.

## I/DD DEFINED:

*I/DD = Intellectual and Developmental Disability*

According to the DD Act, the term developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability that occurs before an individual is 22 that is likely to continue indefinitely, and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more areas of major life activity.

## HOW WE PARTNER WITH MISSOURI AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- We provide funding in the form of grants to non-profits, businesses and organizations across the state who respond to our NoFAs (Notices of Funding Available) for systems change for people with I/DD.
- Connect legislators with self-advocate stakeholders relevant to their proposed bills or who live in their district.
- Serve as a resource for disability related issues.

## INVESTING IN MISSOURI

Since 2022, MODDC has invested over **\$1.5 million** in projects that directly **benefit Missourians with DD.**



## WE ARE A RESOURCE FOR YOU.

MODDC's role is to advocate and educate stakeholders and lawmakers. Let's connect today!

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# 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MODDC is a nonpartisan council that advocates for Missourians with I/DD. All information shared is to educate policymakers on issues facing people with I/DD and advocate for systems change.

## DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE

**Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide the skilled care necessary for people with I/DD to live independently, work, and connect with their communities. However, lack of meaningful investment in DSP wages combined with competitive wages at other hourly jobs like fast food and retail has created a crisis.**

**This leaves Missourians who qualify and need supports without staff to fill that position. These skilled members of the Missouri workforce provide the supports necessary for people with I/DD to live and work as independently as possible.**

- The Missouri General Assembly must find ways to prioritize competitive wages for Direct Care Professionals.

- Missouri should prioritize funding models that incentivize supports in the least restrictive environment.



## LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT



**Missourians with I/DD have the right to full access to services, supports and community living in an integrated and minimally restrictive environment.**

- As a state and society, we must acknowledge that people with disabilities have the right to receive appropriate supports and services empowering them to lead full, healthy, independent, and community-included lives.

- Missouri law, policy, and practice should abide by the HCBS Settings Rule and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## VOTING ACCESSIBILITY



**Voting is a fundamental right and the bedrock of our democracy. Therefore, Missouri must make sure that citizens – with and without disabilities – have a full, fair, and equal opportunity to vote accessibly and privately in local, state, and national elections.**

- Missouri law, policy, and practice should ensure that people under guardianship have the right to vote unless a court order specifically removes that right.

- Missouri law, policy, and practice should ensure that people with disabilities have ample and accessible voting options, including accessible in-person, absentee, and mail-in voting.